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8-30-01

S/N UNKNOWN

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Longoni Serial No.: UNKNOWN  
Filed: CONCURRENT HEREWITH Docket No.: 975.330USW1  
Title: FRAME CONTROL METHOD AND APPARATUS

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

'Express Mail' mailing label number: EL733009995US

Date of Deposit: 4 April 2001

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By: Susan Henig

Name: Susan Henig

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box Patent Application  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please enter the following preliminary amendment into the above-referenced application.

ABSTRACT

Please insert the attached abstract into the application as the last page thereof.

CLAIMS

Please delete claims 1-12. Please insert the following claims 13-24.

13. A frame control method for controlling a transport frame used for transmitting a data unit (**TB**) via a dedicated channel between network elements (**2, 3; 10**) of a communication system having different types of connections, comprising the steps of:
- (a) encapsulating said data unit (**TB**) into said transport frame;
  - (b) selecting a frame type coding of said transport frame in accordance with a connection type of said dedicated channel; and

(c) maintaining information on the frame types to be used for data units on a dedicated channel.

14. A frame control method according to claim 13, wherein said frame type coding defines specific control information fields of the transport frame and its bit number.

15. A frame control method according to claim 14, wherein said specific control information fields include a transport format indicator field the bit number of which is determined on the basis of the number of different transport format indicators allowed for said dedicated channel.

16. A frame control method according to claim 15, wherein the value of said transport format indicator field defines if and how a whole original data unit set is split into different data units to be transported via said dedicated channel.

17. A frame control method according to claim 17, wherein the value of said transport format indicator field defines the presence and/or bit number of another one of said specific control information fields.

18. A frame control method according to claim 17, wherein said other one of said specific control information fields is a frame reliability information field which is provided when the value of said transport format indicator field indicates a high bit rate transmission.

19. A frame control method according to claim 13, wherein said frame type coding is selected in a set-up phase of said dedicated channel based on corresponding set-up parameters of said dedicated channel.

20. A frame control method according to claim 13, wherein said frame type coding does not include a channel indicator field, if one transport connection is allocated to said dedicated channel.

21. A frame control method according to claim 13, wherein said frame control method is used in a user plane interface of a WCDMA system.

22. A frame control method according to claim 21, wherein said dedicated channel is an AAL 2 channel and said data unit is a user plane data unit.

23. A frame control apparatus for controlling a transport frame used for transmitting a data unit **(TB)** via a dedicated channel between network elements **(2, 3; 10)** of a communication system having different types of connections, comprising:

- (a) means **(12)** for encapsulating said data unit **(TB)** into said transport frame;
- (b) means **(13)** for selecting a frame type coding of said transport frame in accordance with a connection type of said dedicated channel, and
- (c) means for maintaining information on the frame types to be used for data units on a dedicated channel.

24. A frame control apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said network elements **(2, 3; 10)** comprise a base station subsystem **(2)** and a radio network controller **(3)** of a mobile communication system **(6)**.